

VZCZCXRO2113  
PP RUEHIK  
DE RUEHRA #0520 2891453  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 161453Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY RIGA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6102  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS RIGA 000520

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS  
DEPT FOR EEB/TPP/ABT, AND EUR/ERA  
STATE ALSO PLEASE PASS USTR AND USDA/FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [EUN](#) [TBIO](#) [LG](#)  
SUBJECT: LATVIA WILL VOTE AGAINST ALL BIOTECH CROP APPROVALS

REF: SECSTATE 106819

[1](#)1. (SBU) The Latvian parliament's European Affairs Committee told the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to vote against any EU approval of biotech food. Thus, the MOA will vote against the biotech varieties in reftel.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Pol/Econ Off delivered reftel demarche to Inese Birgele, head of the MFA's International Trade and Investment Division, and to Janis Briedis, deputy director of the MOA's International Affairs and Strategy Analysis Department. Mr. Briedis said that the ban hurts Latvian farmers and that the MOA would like to evaluate biotech varieties on a case-by-case basis, but it must follow the committee's guidance. Ms. Birgele said that the Latvian public is overwhelmingly opposed to biotech food and some in the Latvian government would like to position Latvia as an organic biotech-free food producer.

[1](#)3. (U) Post will follow up by engaging committee members.